25. (Previously added) The pickup as recited in claim 24, wherein the ferromagnetic plate generally separates magnetic lines of force of a north pole of the magnet(s) from magnetic lines of force of a south pole of the magnet(s).

26 (Previously added) The pickup as recited in claim 24, wherein:

the magnets comprise elongated magnets; and

the ferromagnetic plate is oriented substantially perpendicularly with respect to the magnets and is disposed substantially midway between opposite ends of the magnets.

27 (Previously added) The pickup as recited in claim 24, wherein the ferromagnetic plate comprises a single, uniformly flat ferromagnetic plate.

28. (Previously added) The pickup as recited in claim 24, further comprising:

a first bobbin about which the first wire coil is disposed; and

a second bobbin about which the second wire coil is disposed.

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29. (Previously added) The pickup as recited in claim 24, wherein the first wire coil is disposed generally above the second wire coil.

30. (Previously added) The pickup as recited in claim 24, wherein the first wire coil and the second wire coil are substantially matched to one another and are oppositely wound.

31. (Previously added) The pickup as recited in claim 24, wherein the ferromagnetic plate does not connect to any ferromagnetic portion that extends upwardly to the elevation of the upper end portions of the magnet(s).

32. (Previously added) The pickup as recited in claim 24, wherein the ferromagnetic plate does not connect to any ferromagnetic portion that extends downwardly to the elevation of the lower end portions of the magnet(s).

33. (Previously added) The pickup as recited in claim 24, wherein the ferromagnetic plate does not connect to any ferromagnetic portion that extends upwardly to the elevation of the upper end portions of the magnet(s) and wherein the ferromagnetic plate does not connect to any ferromagnetic portion that extends downwardly to the elevation of the lower end portions of the magnet(s).

34. (Previously added) The pickup as recited in claim 24, further comprising:

a first bobbin having two longitudinal sides, the first wire coil being disposed about the first bobbin;

a second bobbin having two longitudinal sides, the second wire coil being disposed about the second bobbin; and

a pair of steel plates attached to both longitudinal sides of one of the bobbins and extending toward the other bobbin past the ferromagnetic plate and not in physical or electrical contact therewith.

35. (Previously added) The pickup as recited in claim 24, wherein the ferromagnetic plate has a thickness of between approximately 0.125 inch and approximately 0.187 inch.

36. (Previously added) The pickup as recited in claim 24, wherein the ferromagnetic plate has a thickness of at least 0.100 inch.

37. (Twice Amended) A pickup for a musical instrument, the pickup comprising:

a first wire coil;

a second wire coil;

a ~~completely flat~~ ferromagnetic plate substantially planar over an entire surface thereof disposed in a substantially magnetically neutral location between the first wire coil and the second wire coil; and

wherein the first wire coil and the second wire coil are configured so as to create a humbucking effect.

38. (Twice Amended) A guitar comprising:

a body;

a pickup disposed upon the body, the pickup comprising:

a first wire coil;

a second wire coil;

a ~~completely~~ flat ferromagnetic plate substantially planar over an entire surface thereof disposed in a substantially magnetically neutral location between the first wire coil and the second wire coil; and

wherein the first wire coil and the second wire coil are configured so as to create a humbucking effect.

39. (Twice Amended) A method for forming a pickup for a musical instrument, the method comprising:

providing a first wire coil;

providing a second wire coil;

providing a ~~completely flat~~ ferromagnetic plate configured to be substantially planar over an entire surface thereof; and

assembling the first wire coil, the second wire coil and the ferromagnetic plate such that the ferromagnetic plate is disposed ~~intermediate the first wire coil and the second wire coil~~ in a substantially magnetically neutral location between the first wire coil and the second wire coil.

40. (Twice Amended) A method for converting vibrations of strings of a musical instrument into electrical signals representative thereof, the method comprising:

providing a pickup comprising a ~~completely flat~~ ferromagnetic plate substantially planar over an entire surface thereof disposed between two wire coils;

causing at least one string to vibrate so as to vary current in the two wire coils; and

humbucking the two coils so as to mitigate noise therefrom.

REMARKS

Claims 24-40 of the present application are currently pending. In the Final Office Action mailed December 31, 2002, claims 24-40 have been rejected.

In response, the cited references have been reviewed and the rejections made to the claims by the Examiner have been considered. The Applicants have amended claims 24, 37, 38, 39, and 40 of the present application. For the reason set forth below, the Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Double Patenting

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 24-40 under the judicially created doctrine of obvious-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-